

We Claim:

1. An optical light manifold, comprising:
an optical faceplate having a refractive index;
said optical faceplate defining a light emitting area;
a faceted optic having said refractive index;
said faceted optic joined to said optical faceplate defining a
cavity therebetween; and
a fluid disposed within said cavity.

2. The optical light manifold according to claim 1, wherein said fluid is optically compatible to said manifold.

3. The optical light manifold according to claim 2, wherein said fluid is a clear fluid with a refractive index comparable to that of molded resin.

4. The optical light manifold according to claim 2, wherein said fluid is a scattering fluid that displays bulk diffusivity causing said molded optical light manifold to glow when illuminated by a light source.

5. The optical light manifold according to claim 2, wherein said fluid is of a disposition of phosphor so as to fluoresce upon illumination by a light source.

6. The optical light manifold according to claim 2, wherein said fluid is a gel.

7. The optical light manifold according to claim 1, wherein said optical faceplate is of a substantially uniform thickness.

8. The optical light manifold according to claim 1, wherein said faceted optic is of uniform thickness.

9. The optical light manifold according to claim 1, further comprising a sealable opening disposed on an outside surface of said joined optical faceplate and/ or of said faceted optic.

10. The optical light manifold according to claim 1, wherein said optical faceplate is an injection molded or otherwise formed optical faceplate.

11. The optical light manifold according to claim 1, wherein said faceted optic is an injection molded faceted optic.

12. A light emitting system comprising:

a light source that emits light along a first direction; and

a molded optical light manifold that is positioned to receive said light from said light source, said molded optical light manifold comprising:

an optical faceplate having a refractive index;

said optical faceplate defining a light emitting area;

an faceted optic having said refractive index;

said faceted optic joined to said optical faceplate defining a cavity therebetween; and

a fluid disposed within said cavity.

13. The light emitting system according to claim 12, wherein said fluid is optically compatible to said manifold.

14. The light emitting system according to claim 13, wherein said fluid is a clear fluid with a refractive index comparable to that of molded resin.

15. The light emitting system according to claim 13, wherein said fluid is a scattering fluid that displays bulk diffusivity causing said molded optical light manifold to glow when illuminated by said light from said light source.

16. The light emitting system according to claim 13, wherein said fluid is of a disposition of phosphor so as to fluoresce upon illumination by a light source.

5 17. The light emitting system according to claim 13, wherein said fluid is a gel.

18. The light emitting system according to claim 12, wherein said optical faceplate is of a substantially uniform thickness.

10 19. The light emitting system according to claim 12, wherein said faceted optic is of a substantially uniform thickness.

15 20. The light emitting system according to claim 12, further comprising a sealable opening disposed on an outside surface of said joined optical faceplate and faceted optic.

21. The light emitting system according to claim 12, wherein said optical faceplate is an injection molded optical faceplate.

22. The light emitting system according to claim 12, wherein said faceted optic is an injection molded faceted optic.

23. The light emitting system according to claim 12, wherein said faceted optic receives said light emitted from said light source and redirects said light through said optical faceplate so as to provide illumination through a light emitting area.

24. The light emitting system according to claim 23, wherein said faceted optic receives and disperses light from a light source.

25. A method of forming an optical light manifold, comprising:
forming an faceted optic;
forming an optical faceplate;
joining said faceted optic to said optical faceplate to define a cavity therebetween; and
filling said cavity with a fluid.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein said joining comprises a vibration welding process.

27. The method according to claim 25, wherein said joining comprises an infrared welding process.

28. The method according to claim 25, wherein said fluid is a clear fluid with a refractive index comparable to that of a molded resin.

29. The method according to claim 25, wherein said fluid is a scattering fluid that displays bulk diffusivity.

30. The method according to claim 25, wherein said fluid is phosphorescent.

31. The method according to claim 25, further comprising sealing said manifold upon completion of said filling.